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KEYWORDS:

Sexual Assault

Sexual Assault
Nurse
Examiner(SANE)

Forensic
Examination

Evidence
Collection

Chain of Custody

Chain of Custody
Form

REFER TO:

Sexual Assault
Emergency
Services 117.51-
117.58
Joint Commission
LD 04.01.01EP2

Act 28Pa.Code
117.52 (a)

Act 28 PA Code
117.51-117.58

INTRODUCTION

Sexual assault takes many forms, including attacks such as rape or attempted rape as well as any unwanted sexual contact or threats. A sexual assault occurs when someone touches any part of another person's body in a sexual way, even through clothes, without that person's consent. Types of sexual acts which fall under the category of sexual assault include forced sexual intercourse (rape), sodomy (oral or anal sexual acts), child molestation, incest, fondling and attempted rape. Sexual assault in any form is often a devastating crime. Assailants can be strangers, acquaintances, friends, or family members. This policy is designed to assist all HUP, PPMC, and PAH staff in caring for an inpatient who reports being sexually assaulted or if a hospital clinician suspects a patient has been sexually assaulted.

PURPOSE

To provide a specially trained Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE), provided through contract with Drexel University's Philadelphia Sexual Assault Response Center, to perform a confidential and comprehensive examination for victims of sexual assault who are admitted to HUP, PPMC, or PAH.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all HUP, PPMC, and PAH staff including but not limited to Registered Nurses (RNs), Physicians, and/or Social Workers who are aware of or suspect that an inpatient has suffered a sexual assault. SANE employees contracted through the Philadelphia Sexual Assault Response Center are also under the scope of this policy.

POLICY

Drexel University SANE representatives will:

1. Provide 24/7 on-call SANE coverage
2. Respond to HUP, PPMC, or PAH within two hours of notification
3. Obtain consent, perform a forensic rape examination and evidence collection in accordance with all applicable legal regulations and professional standards
4. Provide written recommendations to the healthcare provider for sexually transmitted infection prophylaxis, pregnancy prophylaxis and HIV prophylaxis per CDC guidelines
5. **Provide written instructions for follow-up care and counseling**
6. Transfer forensic evidence to appropriate policy agency

PROCEDURE

A. NOTIFICATION

1. If an inpatient meets the criteria as described above, the healthcare provider or nurse will notify the Nursing Administrative Coordinator (NAC) on duty (refer to entity-specific phone numbers below).
 - a. Referrals may be made within 120 hrs/ 5days days of the alleged event.
 - b. The SANE hotline may be consulted for any questions about special victims without making a full referral.
2. The NAC will notify hospital security. Security will notify police (911) per protocol.

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3. The NAC will call the SANE hotline (215-425-1625) and document the time of the referral in the electronic log.
 4. Upon arrival, the NAC will meet the SANE and escort him/her to the patient's primary nurse. The SANE Nurse will bring consent form and leave copy. The SANE nurse will also come with a consult form and provide copy.
- B. CLINICAL CONSIDERATIONS**
1. The patient has the right to refuse any/all collection of evidence and medical treatment at any time throughout his/her evaluation and treatment.
 2. If the patient declines the forensic exam, the medical exam and treatment will be performed at the request of the patient.
 3. It is preferable to leave the patient's clothing on if possible, but if medical treatment requires removing the clothing, save the patient's clothing in a paper bag.
 4. Do NOT bathe the patient.
 5. Do not provide oral care for the patient.
- C. CONSENT AND TREATMENT**
1. The SANE will obtain written patient consent for forensic examination, treatment, collection of evidence and release of medical records information to the law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction. A copy of the face sheet and patient labels will be provided to the SANE by the primary nurse.
 2. The SANE will explain the examination and evidence collection procedure to the patient.
 3. The SANE will provide all necessary equipment for the examination and evidence collection.
 4. The primary nurse will assist the SANE during the exam, as reasonably requested
 5. The SANE will provide written recommendations to the healthcare provider for sexually transmitted infection prophylaxis, pregnancy prophylaxis, and HIV prophylaxis per CDC guidelines
 6. The healthcare provider will enter orders based on SANE recommendations into the patient's electronic medical record
 7. The SANE will provide written instructions to patients for follow-up care and counseling
 8. The SANE will transfer all forensic evidence to the appropriate police agency
- D. DOCUMENTATION**
1. The SANE will document on the SANE consult sheet and leave a copy for medical record. The primary nurse will document the following in the patient's electronic medical record:
 - a. Time of SANE consult
 - b. Time of SANE arrival
 - c. Time forensic examination began and ended
 - d. Any testing conducted
 - e. Any medication administered

ENTITY SPECIFIC INFORMATION

A. HOSPITAL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA (HUP)

1. NAC: [REDACTED] (contact NM of unit Monday-Friday 7a-3p)
2. Parking: Valet area in front of Ravdin Lobby (34th Street)
3. SANE meets NAC at Emergency Department entrance

B. PENN PRESBYTERIAN MEDICAL CENTER (PPMC)

1. NAC: [REDACTED]
2. Parking: Rudolphy Lot (across from ED)
3. SANE meets NAC at Emergency Department entrance

C. PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITAL (PAH)

1. NAC: [REDACTED]
2. Parking: Parking garage on Delancey Street (parking validated by security)
3. SANE meets NAC at hospital main entrance (8th Street)

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REFERENCES

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Sexual Assault and Abuse and STDs
[http: www//cdc.gov/std/tg2015/sexual-assault.htm](http://www/cdc.gov/std/tg2015/sexual-assault.htm)

ENA Position Statement: Care of the Sexual Assault and Rape Victims in the Emergency department.

Retrieve from ENA. Org 3-1-2016

Pennsylvania Act, 35 P.S. section 10172.1. <http://www.pabulletin.com/secure/data/vol38/38-39/1756.html>

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REVIEWS/APPROVALS

Supersedes: New
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